IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of
Nobuyuki Enomoto, et al.
Serial No.: 10/642,481   Group Art Unit: 2442
Filed: August 18, 2003   Examiner: Bingini, Christopher D.
For: NETWORK SYSTEM, LEARNING BRIDGE NODE, LEARNING METHOD AND ITS PROGRAM

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
BOX AF

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.114

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated January 29, 2010, please reconsider the above-identified application as follows:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Claims 3-9, 11-15, 18-24, 26-30, 33-39, and 41-43 are all the claims presently pending in the application.

Claims begin on page 2 of this paper. There are no new claim amendments, but a clean version of the claims is included for reference. No new matter is added.

Remarks begin at page 9 of this paper.

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CLAIMS:

1-2.   (Cancelled.)

3.   (Previously Presented) A network system for a network having plural nodes connected, wherein a node belonging to said network comprises:
a CPU (Central Processing Unit) executing a learning frame management unit which refers to a source media access control address (MAC SA) table cache to determine whether a learning frame transmission request of a MAC SA has been made; and
a memory system that stores:
a MAC forwarding table memory which stores an output port for a destination MAC address and destination tag information corresponding to a virtual local area network (VLAN) tagged Ethernet frame, said destination tag information being included in a learning frame that said network transmits to a path opposite to another path in which a main signal frame flows; and
the MAC SA table cache which stores a source MAC address which has made a learning frame transmission request, said main signal frame having said source MAC address and said destination MAC address.

4.   (Previously Presented) The network system as set forth in claim 3, wherein said nodes comprise:
an aging request acceptance unit which ages said MAC SA table cache, and
a transmission request unit which makes a learning frame transmission request to a CPU.

5.   (Previously Presented) The network system as set forth in claim 4, wherein said nodes have a learning management computer-readable medium encoded with a computer program installed thereon which conducts a learning frame process.

6.   (Withdrawn — Previously Presented) A network system for a network having plural nodes connected, wherein a node belonging to said network comprises:
a learning management computer-readable medium encoded with a computer

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address " (emphasis added by Applicants) as recited in claim 3, and similarly recited in claims 18 and 33. The Examiner, however, is clearly incorrect.

That is, contrary to the Examiner's allegations, at least Figs. 38-40 and corresponding description, and more specifically page 62, lines 10-13, page 112, lines 21-26, page 113, lines 11-18, and page 114, lines 11-14 clearly disclose the aforementioned features of the claimed invention.

For example, the specification of the present Application on page 112, lines 21-26, referring to exemplary Figs. 38-40, discloses:

> "In this embodiment, even when the asymmetrical flow is flowed by sending the learning frame through a path opposite to the path where the main signal frame flows, the learning process can be functioned, the network congestion can be remedied from becoming congestion, and the bandwidth usability can be improved" (emphasis added by Applicants).

Similarly, with regard to the "main signal frame" recited in claims 3, 18, and 33, the specification of the present Application on page 112, lines 21-26, referring to exemplary Figs. 38-40, discloses:

> "In this example, the frame sent from the client C1 is determined as the ICMP ECHO REQUEST, so that the basic software of the client C1 sends an ICMP REPLY frame of the destination MAC address c5 and the source MAC address c1 and sends to the node C1. This frame is referred to as the main signal frame in the following description" (emphasis added by Applicants).

Accordingly, the specification of the present Application clearly discloses to one ordinary skill in the art, "said destination tag information being included in a learning frame that said network transmits to a path opposite to another path in which a main signal frame flows; and the MAC SA table cache which stores a source MAC address which has made a learning frame transmission request, said main signal frame having said source MAC address and said destination MAC address " (emphasis added by Applicants) as recited in claim 3, and similarly recited in claims 18 and 33.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.